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Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to speak here today on this critical issue.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs himself states that the security environment our country faces today is the most unpredictable he has seen in 40 years of service. I could not agree with him more. This year I had the opportunity to speak with our military's top leaders from across the Department. No matter where their AOR: PACOM, AFRICOM, EUCOM, Korea the message was clear: the need for a robust Army capability remains and is not going away.

By the end of fiscal year 2017, the number of Army Soldiers on active duty will be substantially less than there were prior to the terrorist attacks on 9/11; this is bad policy and it places us all at risk.

While I do not agree with the current budgetary situation facing the Department of Defense, members of the U.S. House of Representatives are doing what they can to fund the department. I was proud to support the recently passed National Defense Authorization Act and a Defense Appropriations Bills which provide the military with what they asked of us as they take the fight to our enemies in the coming year. My colleagues and I fully appreciate how important funding our military and the young men and women we send to combat is and we will continue that fight.

Reducing Soldiers and civilians from Fort Hood to meet these reduction goals is economically and strategically bad for the Army, Soldiers, and our nation's security. The Commission will be hard pressed to find an installation with a higher 'military value capability' than Fort Hood. With 342 square miles of outstanding infrastructure, maneuver ranges, live fire impact areas, and power projection capabilities, The Great Place is one of a handful of bases in the US where troops can get full scale training at every level. Fort Hood's relatively low housing prices and cost of living only add to its advantages when the Army must look to save dollars.

Most importantly for the Commission's work, Fort Hood stands as a unique example for cost effectiveness in opportunities for further integration of the Total Force. There are established Reserve Component Headquarters in Texas that could easily accept missions currently assigned to Active Component forces without a requirement for relocation or newly constructed facilities. III Corps already has control of the 36th Infantry Division; there is a command/support relationship in place which is effective and efficient.

Fort Hood is one of only two Enduring Mobilization Force Generation Installations in the continental United States. The Power Projection infrastructure at Fort Hood was built at a time when two Divisions were stationed here. Thus, plenty of capacity for deploying active, guard,

and reserve forces currently exist without stressing the existing infrastructure. Efficiencies across the Total Army can be leveraged right now in Central Texas.

We were notified yesterday afternoon that the Army plans to reduce 3,350 Soldiers from Fort Hood by the end of fiscal year 2017. I could not be more disappointed about this announcement. I have serious concerns with any logic or analysis that would lead to this decision.

There are numerous inconsistencies in the data I have seen and I will be pressing the Army for clarification in the coming days. I am particularly frustrated over how the decision to remove troops from Fort Hood is good for the nation, the Army, and our Soldiers. More specifically, I fail to understand how cuts to Fort Hood are less damaging than the removal of troops from locations that have lower military value ratings.

Ultimately, this commission must make recommendations on modifications to the structure of the Total Army. Within a climate of global instability, budgetary constraints, and overwhelming strain on our Army, I call on this Commission to look hard and make recommendations based on the practicality and efficiencies of posts such as Fort Hood.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and your Commission for taking the time to come to our great community and hearing us out on the benefits of Fort Hood's military value to the Army's total force structure.